

Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)
Notes from the meeting held Thursday, December 8, 2005
United Way Board Room, Jensen Road, Vestal, NY

Present:

Members-at-Large: Terry Woodnorth, Mary Cronk, Tim Wolcott, Bill Heaviside, Andre LaClair, Ruth Levin and Tony Lubzanski
C.A.C Reps. Cindy Westerman (Vestal)
Special Reps: Chip McElwee (BC Soil & Water)
Ex-Officio: Bob Denz (BCHD)
Legislative Reps: Ron Keibel (11th District)
Associate Members: Karen Ciatyk and Doug Garner
Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola and Beth Egitto
Visitors: Chris Burger, Dylan Horvath and Erin Heard
Absent w/excuse: Kevin Mathers and Anndrea Starzak

1. Andre **convened** the meeting at **7:40 pm**. Introductions followed. Minutes from November were approved on a motion by Chip, seconded by Tim. Motion carried.

2. Privilege of the Floor/Announcements/Member Items of Interest

- Cindy thanked those who purchased Sierra Club calendars; some are still available.
- Andre circulated a National Wildlife Foundation magazine that features a photograph by Victor Lamoureux, a regular participant in the EMC's Joyce K.L. Smith Environmental Photography Show & Competition. Vic was a finalist in the NWF photo contest; his entry will be featured on a greeting card.
- 2006 *New York Recycles!* calendars featuring the winners of the 2005 *New York Recycles!* poster contest were sent to EMCs across the state. Calendars and 2006 poster contest guidelines were distributed, which can also be found at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dshh/redrecy/prules.htm>.
- Congressman Hinchey's office contacted the EMC to inquire about green buildings in the area. Hinchey is co-sponsoring the Energy for Our Future Act, which seeks to decrease US dependence on foreign oil, protect the environment, build a market for renewable energy, and promote energy conservation.
- Results of the EMC meeting times & frequency survey:
 - EMC General meetings - most (93%) prefer to eliminate 1 or 2 (summer months and December); most (86%) prefer to begin earlier (6:30pm or 7pm). The January 2006 meeting is scheduled for 7pm.
 - EMC Committee meetings - few are agreeable to meet every 6 weeks (7%) or in the morning (14%). Most are agreeable to meeting every other month (57%) and continuing to meet at 4:30pm (71%). The meetings will continue to be held at 4:30pm.

3. Discussion and Adoption of Draft 2006 EMC Work Plan

Stacy distributed copies of the Draft 2006 Work Plan (previously sent to voting members via email). The items for NRC and RWMC were reviewed at their November meetings.

- For NRC-06-04, change "Develop *to* comprehensively goose remediation plan" to "Develop comprehensive goose remediation plan". "
- Andre moved to include Outdoor Wood Boilers in "RWMC 06-08 Open Burning". Bob Denz commented that the Health Department considers these two separate issues, and that legislation will likely result in a certification process for OWBs much in the same way as wood stoves have EPA

certification. Chip and Tim agreed that these (outdoor burning and OWB) are separate issues that should be included under their own headings in the work plan. Tim moved, Cindy seconded to add item "RWMC-06-09 Outdoor Wood Boilers" - "To monitor legislation and keep updated on issues related to outdoor wood boilers"; Timeframe: ongoing; Staff: Volunteers/BAE. The motion to amend carried with one opposed (T. Woodnorth).

- Cindy asked about interns for 2006 since they are included under certain tasks of the work plan. Stacy commented that the EMC recruits interns from the Off Campus College Program at Binghamton University (and the Service Learning Program at Broome Community College). The EMC did not receive any applications for the spring 2006 semester through either of these programs, which is a growing trend perhaps because of the structured nature of the programs. The EMC receives a few blind inquiries for internships throughout the year; staff screens candidates for placement.
- For BFC-06-02 change "meet *regularly*" to "meet *as needed*".

Chip moved, Mary seconded, to approve the 2006 Draft Work Plan as amended. The motion carried.

4. The scheduled break was skipped to save time.

5. Committee & Task Force Reports:

Brownfields Committee (BFC): No meeting. Brownfields Assessment Pilot (BAP) Update: Stacy noted that the County's Chief Planner and Brownfields Coordinator, Frank Evangelisti, plans to tour a Corliss Ave., JC property with BAP consultants, and municipal and DEC representatives for developing a scope and cost proposals for environmental assessment work. The site was approved by the EPA for site specific sampling work under our Brownfield Cooperative Agreement for the BAP.

Natural Resource Committee (NRC): Terry reported that the NRC met 11/17. Ruth presented the draft Archeological History outline (part of the Distinctive Character section) for the Open Space Plan. The group watched Part 3 of the Conservation Subdivision video. Next meeting: Thurs, 12/15, 4:30pm, BCOB.

Goose Management Task Force (GMTF): Andre reported that the GMTF met 11/9 with the group of Binghamton University students writing a policy analysis paper on Goose Management in Broome County. They summarized their information thus far and sought feedback about criteria to include in their analysis. The 55 page report and power point presentation were emailed to Stacy today. She will email the Executive Summary to members and the full report to GMTF members and officials. The students offered to present their findings at a future EMC meeting, perhaps January 2006. [Editors note: the students confirmed their guest presentation for the January EMC mtg; the GMTF will meet Wed Jan 11 to discuss report details].

Recycling & Waste Management Committee (RWMC): Tim reported that the RWMC met 11/21 and received reports about Div of Solid Waste Mgmt website updates, the Christmas tree recycling program, new county brochures, the movie theatre recycling ads and the shortage of recycling bins. The County received three (3) replies for Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the Landfill Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS); the contract will be awarded in January. There was also some discussion of odor issues at the landfill and methods for recycling scrap metal.

Chris Burger added that he recently attended a statewide conference on solid waste (zero waste theme), and that reps from Delaware County, NY presented info about their new large-scale composting facility and operation. Bill asked about recycling provision at the new University apartments.

Membership Committee: Ballots were sent to voting members with the December agenda. Election results were read: EMC Chair - Terry Woodnorth; EMC Vice-Chairs - Mary Cronk and Bill Heaviside; Member-at-large (MAL) renewals - Mary Cronk, Bill Heaviside and Lisa Hoffman; new MALs - Doug Garner and Karen Ciatyk (to fill the unexpired term of D. Weitzman); and Associate Members (AM) - Tony Lubzanski and Andre LaClair. There were three write-ins for MAL: Ray Nolan, Duke Holdsworth, and Anndrea

Starzak and one for AM: Lisa Hoffman. Herman Roberson chose not to renew his membership for a second two-year term. The Dickinson CAC has not yet recommended a candidate for their seat.

The nominee for EMC Chair will be sent to the County Executive for her appointment. Andre will continue to serve as EMC Chair until Terry is confirmed. Per EMC by-laws, members whose terms have officially expired shall continue to serve until their replacements have been appointed and confirmed by the appropriate authorities. The election of Vice Chairs and AM is final needing no approval from the Co. Executive or the Legislature. Recommended nominees for MAL will be submitted to the Co. Executive for approval and Legislative confirmation. Cindy asked that we invite B. Fiala to address the EMC in 2006; Stacy will included this in the in the letter requesting consideration of nominees.

6. Conservation Advisory Committee/Commission (CAC) Reports:

Vestal- Cindy reported that the CAC met 11/22, and the main discussion topic was the gas drilling letter. Recommendations included looking at the pipeline and awareness about the removal of facilities when drilling is completed. They also viewed the video *Preserving Open Space with Conservation Subdivision*. Other topics included the Fuller Hollow Subdivision (single family homes to be built in 5 phases), the new administration and Vestal archeological sites. Ruth Levin resigned from the CAC leaving one opening. Vestal residents interested in serving should attend the next meeting Tues, 1/24/06, 7:30 pm Town Hall.

Union- No report.

Dickinson- No report.

7. Staff & Chair Reports:

- Andre appointed Cindy Westerman as NRC Chair and Tim Wolcott as RWMC Chair for 2006. A chair is needed for Brownfields. Karen was asked to consider chairmanship of GMTF, which Andre will continue until a replacement is found.
- Staff and a few EMC members attended the NYS Draft Open Space Conservation Plan public workshop and hearing, which consisted of a short presentation and opportunity to speak one-on-one with state reps. There are small in holdings of land adjacent to Chenango Valley State Park (Broome Co.) included on the Supplemental acquisition list , which could be acquired by NYS to add buffer to CVSP. State officials described this as an opportunity as land becomes available for sale. In addition, the DEC wishes to acquire land on the Nanticoke Creek to create more public fishing access. There are no lands in Broome identified for acquisition on the Priority list. Most acquisition opportunities exist in the Onondaga and Madison County areas. Public comment is open until mid January. A copy is in the EMC office.
- Waterman Center is currently taking donations specifically for the IBM Glen. Andre noted that Nature Conservancy recently purchased a portion of the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.
- Stacy distributed copies of the letter and EMC adopted resolution that was sent to the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant Board requesting a public repository for information about the STP, etc. That Board planned to meet 12/15.

8. The meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm

Beth Egitto, Recorder
Stacy Merola, Editor